

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1077

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1766

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC, VN, OAU

SUBJECT: ACCREDITATION OF PRG AND OTHER DELEGATIONS AT
UPCOMING LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 027026; B. STATE 028943

SUMMARY. APPROACHES TO DFA BY BOTH US AND VIETNAMESE
EMBASSY RESULTED IN INFORMAL INDICATIONS GOP WOULD
OPPOSE INVITATION TO PRG FOR LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE.
GOP MAY, HOWEVER, DRAW DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS
AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND SUPPORT "FULL PARTICI-
PATION" FOR SOME. MOMENTUM OF SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION
MOVEMENTS GENERATED BY OAU, ARAB BLOC AND NON-ALIGNED
STATES WOULD MAKE SUCH A COURSE HARD TO RESIST FOR GOP.
END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MADE POINTS IN REF A FEBRUARY 14 TO AMB
YANGO, DFA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR UN AFFAIRS, WHO
FOLLOWED HIS CUSTOMARY PRACTICE OF RESPONDING WITH HIS
PERSONAL THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT. IN THE PAST, YANGO'S
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COMMENTS HAVE PROVEN FAIRLY RELIABLE GUIDE TO ULTIMATE

GOP POSITION ON QUESTION AT HAND.

2. YANGO THOUGHT THAT GOP WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTIES IN CONTINUING ITS OPPOSITION TO PARTICIPATION OF PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM (PRG) IN SUCH FORUMS AS SUBJECT CONFERENCE. THIS WOULD BE IN LINE WITH GOP POSITION TAKEN AT UNGA ON PRG PARTICIPATION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, YANGO THOUGHT GOP WOULD HAVE SOMEWHAT GREATER DIFFICULTY AGREEING WITH U.S. HE THOUGHT GOP MIGHT MAKE SOME DISTINCTION BETWEEN VARIOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND INQUIRED WHETHER U.S. WOULD BE DOING SO. EMBOFF INDICATED INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT SPECIFY INDIVIDUAL MOVEMENTS BUT DEALT WITH PROBLEM GENERALLY. YANGO POINTED OUT, FOR INSTANCE, THAT GOP HAD ALREADY CAST ITS VOTE IN FAVOR OF GUINEA-BISSAU PARTICIPATION IN UN AFFAIRS. HE ALSO THOUGHT GOP WOULD BE MUCH TEMPTED TO SUPPORT AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, OPERATING IN UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE GOP ACTIVE IN APARTHEID COMMITTEE. SOME OF THE OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN TREATED AS FULL PARTICIPANTS IN UNITED NATIONS OR OTHER FORUMS MIGHT REQUIRE GREATER GOP CONSIDERATION.

4. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT U.S. POSITION WOULD NOT LEAD TO EXCLUSION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT DELEGATIONS BUT TO THEIR TREATMENT ON A DIFFERENT BASIS SINCE CLEARLY THEY COULD NOT PROPERLY BE GIVEN STATUS EQUAL THAT OF SOVEREIGN STATES. YANGO REPLIED THAT LEGALLY THE U.S. POSITION COULD NOT BE DISPUTED BUT THAT ONE MUST CONSIDER REALITIES OF THE SITUATION. IF OAU CHOOSES TO PRESS CASE FOR ADMISSION LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THE ARAB BLOC AND NON-ALIGNED STATES COULD BE EXPECTED TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT. THIS WOULD CREATE A MOMENTUM AND SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE HARD FOR SUCH DELEGATIONS AS GOP TO RESIST. UN AND RELATED BODIES HAVE BECOME SO POLITICIZED IN RECENT YEARS AND THESE QUESTIONS WERE ALL SO EMOTION CHARGED THAT IT IS MOST DIFFICULT FOR A SMALL STATE TO TAKE A POSITION INDEPENDENT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS.

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5. EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE US WAS NOT ARGUING ITS POSITION FOR MERE SAKE OF LEGALITY BUT BECAUSE VERY POLITICIZATION OF WHICH YANGO SPOKE THREATENED TO INTERFERE WITH IMPORTANT AND USEFUL WORK FOR WHICH CONFERENCE WAS CALLED. YANGO AGREED THIS WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, ALSO AFFECTING MOST UN BUSINESS BUT LEFT LITTLE DOUBT HE THOUGHT GOP WOULD SUPPORT ADMISSION AT LEAST SOME AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS FULL PARTICIPANTS.

6. VIETNAMESE AMB THANH CALLED ON AMB SINGIAN, DFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, WHO ASSURED HIM OF GOP SUPPORT IN OPPOSING PRG PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT CONFERENCE.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THE DFA APPROACH TO THIRD WORLD MATTERS, SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVED HERE, REMAINS RELATIVELY UNEMOTIONAL, IT IS CLEAR THAT IN RECENT YEARS GOP INCREASINGLY FEELS NEED TO TAKE DIPLOMATIC POSITIONS WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH ITS IMAGE AS DEVELOPING ASIAN NATION. SUCH GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE REINFORCED BY ARAB BLOC INTEREST IN THE PHILIPPINES' MUSLIM CONFLICT AND FURTHER UNDERLINED BY FUEL CRISIS. EMBASSY BELIEVES YANGO'S REMARKS REFLECT PROBABLY GOP LINE AS CONFERENCE. SULLIVAN

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